

Q. Are you going to the funeral?

*The President.* Excuse me?

Q. Are you going to go to the funeral?

*The President.* I intend to go, yes.

Q. When will it be, do you know?

*The President.* The family has not made announcements, and I'm not sure they've made final decisions. It's my understanding that the funeral will be in California, and they'll announce something about it probably tomorrow.

Q. Will all the Presidents be going, former Presidents?

*The President.* I can't say that.

Q. Can you tell us something about your relationship with Mr. Nixon?

*The President.* Yes, well, we made contact with each other shortly after—I think shortly after the election—either that or shortly after I came in here. And then, as you will remember, I had him up to the White House for a visit.

We talked frequently on the phone. I sought his advice about a number of issues in foreign policy, and we talked quite a lot about Russia. We had a good, long visit right before he went to Russia, and as I said, just a month ago today, I think, he penned his last letter to me of his thoughts on that trip and his advice.

So our relationship continued to be warm and constructive throughout the period of my Presidency, and he went out of his way to give me his best advice. And I was incredibly impressed with the energy and the vigor and, frankly, the rigor that he brought to analyzing this issue.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 11:03 p.m. in the Rose Garden at the White House. The related proclamation of April 22 and Executive order of April 23 are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.

## Message to the Congress on the Death of President Richard Nixon April 22, 1994

*To the Congress of the United States:*

It is my sad duty to inform you officially of the death of Richard Milhous Nixon, the thirty-seventh President of the United States.

Born in 1913, he was first elected to the Congress in 1946, a member of that historic freshman class of World War II veterans that also included John F. Kennedy. He was elected to the Senate in 1950, and served two terms as Vice President of the United States between 1953 and 1961. His career in the Congress coincided with the great expansion of the American middle class, when men and women from backgrounds as humble as his own secured the triumph of freedom abroad and the promise of economic growth at home.

He remained a visible presence in American public life for over half a century. Yet through all those years of service to his country, in the military, in the Congress, in the Presidency, and beyond, he cherished his life as a private man, a family man. He was lovingly devoted to his wife, Pat, to their daughters Patricia Cox and Julie Eisenhower, and to his four grandchildren.

His lifetime and public career were intertwined with America's rise as a world power. His faith in America never wavered, from his famous "kitchen debate" with Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev through all of the debates that followed. We Americans and our neighbors abroad will always owe him a special debt for opening diplomatic doors to Beijing and Moscow during his Presidency, and his influence in world affairs will be felt for years to come.

Richard Milhous Nixon lived the "American Dream." Now, he rests in peace.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

The White House,

April 22, 1994.

NOTE: This message was released by the Office of the Press Secretary on April 23. The related proclamation of April 22 and Executive order of April 23 are listed in Appendix D at the end of this volume.